

ROMAN GARZA

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Software Engineer with 7 years of experience in backend data infrastructure and cloud modernization. Skilled in cluster operations, observability, schema management, compliance tooling, and event-driven platform design. Contributed to company-wide Kafka services enabling reliable, compliant event streaming and storage, while leading cloud migrations and improving system reliability and performance.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Led the Kafka Exchange UI, a Node.js/React/TypeScript web application that simplified company-wide onboarding to the Kafka event pipeline; owned the data model, UI/UX collaboration, ticket breakdown, infrastructure as code, and code review; mentored an intern through implementation, productionized the application, and presented it to the wider Data Infrastructure organization.
- Designed and shipped Partition Ready Events, a Kafka service signaling downstream jobs (e.g., index builders) when data is safe to consume; aligned requirements across 4 teams and led its operational readiness review.
- Maintained and extended Kafka platform tooling, including PII indexing services, schema inference daemons, and Gradle plugin codebases for Schema Registry integration.
- Managed and provisioned Kafka clusters in new regions, documenting provisioning processes for company-wide rollouts.
- Migrated multiple event-dependent services from on-prem to AWS Aurora, enabling legacy data center decommission.
- Improved SLA compliance and platform reliability through Inflight Sanitization and automated compliance enforcement across large-scale Kafka consuming applications.
- Reduced query costs by ~\$1,700/month via Presto/Trino performance optimizations.
- Delivered 10× faster packet capture at Quantea (1–2 Gbps to 15–20 Gbps), driving \$1M+ in long-term contracts.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Saint Paul's Monastery, Icon Shop — Boscobel, WI (Volunteer)

September – October 2026

E-commerce Engineer (WordPress/WooCommerce), one-week engagement

- Reconciled inventory across 1,000+ WooCommerce SKU and variation records, found missing catalog entries, and built CSV bulk-import workflows that create and update variations (SKU, attributes, pricing, stock).
- Debugged variation-import failures across parent/child products, global attributes, variation metadata, catalog visibility, and stock settings; tested changes on a small set of products before rolling them out to the full catalog.
- Traced a live storefront inventory-display bug through WooCommerce hooks to a custom snippet on the `woocommerce_get_availability` filter, and confirmed the fix past WordPress caching.
- Fixed the store's inability to mark customers as tax-exempt by setting up a WooCommerce tax-exemption plugin.
- Wrote a plain-English help guide and training material for the non-technical staff who run the store. Used Claude to speed up investigation and implementation, and verified each change on the live store.

Indeed — Austin, TX

October 2021 – August 2025

Software Engineer II

Kafka Platform Engineering & Operations

- Shared responsibility for company-wide Kafka event infrastructure, including production and consumption APIs, schema management, compliance services, and cross-region replication.
- Contributed to core APIs and client libraries for emitting and consuming events used by dozens of teams across Indeed.
- Maintained Kafka-integrated daemons for PII indexing and schema inference; developed Gradle tooling for Schema Registry integration.
- Helped operate and manage Kafka clusters; provisioned and documented processes for new cluster rollouts and data center migrations.
- Delivered the Kafka Exchange UI, a subscription-based app that simplified Kafka event streaming onboarding company-wide; designed the system and mentored an intern through implementation.
- Designed and implemented Partition Ready Events, a service that notifies downstream consumers (e.g., index builders) when events are safe to consume from the internal storage layer.

Cloud Migrations & Service Modernization

- Migrated Typecode Service, Storage Location Service, and EventViewer from on-prem MySQL to AWS Aurora, coordinating with SQL and platform teams to enable data center decommission.
- Delivered production readiness for the Event Metadata Service with full legacy API support, enabling seamless migration away from legacy SLS/LTS metadata systems.
- Delivered Java 17 migration across 30+ data infrastructure codebases, modernizing the stack and reducing maintenance risk.

Reliability, Compliance & Automation

- Implemented Inflight Sanitization across multiple Kafka daemons, eliminating recurring manual interventions and improving compliance.
- Authored 24/7 on-call runbooks and added SLO monitors for 6 key Kafka services, including Custom Mirror Maker, Osiris Pusher, Schema Inference Daemon, and Event Metadata Service.
- Led migration from Jenkins to GitLab CI and automated 30+ recurring jobs with Slack alerts, streamlining deployments and ensuring library freshness.
- Debugged and resolved production incidents across Kafka services, including partition lag, missing events, and schema violations.

Collaboration & Leadership

- Led design reviews for Kafka platform features and broke down complex work for execution across multiple engineers.
- Mentored and onboarded engineers and interns in company tools, software delivery best practices, and debugging.
- Conducted 17+ technical interviews and presented the Kafka Exchange UI to the wider Data Infrastructure organization.

Quantea — Santa Clara, CA

December 2018 – October 2021

Lead Software Engineer

Product Development & Innovation

- Designed and implemented scalable applications for packet capture, dissection, and storage, resulting in 2 new products and \$1.4M+ in appliance sales.
- Raised packet capture throughput 10×, from 1–2 Gbps to 15–20 Gbps, and delivered 4× more filtering options, growing customer appeal.

Technical Leadership & Optimization

- Led DPDK-based Network Packet Broker development as subject matter expert for 5 stakeholders, reducing development time by 25%.
- Created technical documentation, installation guides, and system configuration instructions to improve onboarding and customer support.

Stakeholder Collaboration & Growth

- Hosted project meetings, identified risks, forecasted timelines, and presented API usage to executives, aligning product direction with business goals.
- Enabled a new partnership, secured 3 contracts, and attracted 4 investor prospects through cross-functional collaboration.
- Supervised and mentored 2 summer interns, improving their software knowledge and contributions.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Java, C/C++, Python, JavaScript/TypeScript, Bash, Perl (CGI)

Data & Streaming: Kafka, Schema Registry, Presto/Trino, MySQL, PostgreSQL, AWS Aurora

Cloud & Infrastructure: AWS, Kubernetes, Terraform, Linux (CentOS/Ubuntu), DPDK

Frameworks & Tooling: Spring Boot, Node.js, React, Gradle, GitLab CI, Jenkins, Git, Selenium, Datadog, Jira, Confluence, WordPress/WooCommerce, Claude (AI-assisted development)

EDUCATION

B.S. Computer Science, Oregon State University · GPA 3.8

2018

B.S. Biology, Missouri State University

2015